

Coordinating Center Report

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Abstract This report summarizes the activities of the IVS Coordinating Center during the calendar years 2015 and 2016 and provides an outlook on activities planned for the next two years.

1 Coordinating Center Operation

The IVS Coordinating Center is based at the Goddard Space Flight Center and is operated by NEOS (National Earth Orientation Service), a joint effort for VLBI by the U.S. Naval Observatory and the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.

The mission of the Coordinating Center is to provide communications and information for the IVS community and the greater scientific community and to coordinate the day-to-day and long-term activities of IVS.

The Web server for the Coordinating Center is provided by Goddard. The address is

<http://ivscc.gsfc.nasa.gov>.

2 Activities during 2015 and 2016

During the period from January 2015 through December 2016, the Coordinating Center supported the following IVS activities:

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Coordinating Center

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- **Directing Board support:** Coordinated, with local committees, four IVS Directing Board meetings: Ponta Delgada, Azores, Portugal (May 2015); Penticton, BC, Canada (October 2015); Johannesburg, South Africa (March 2016), and Westford, MA, USA (October 2016). Notes from each meeting were published on the IVS Web site.
- **VGOS:** Supported the activities for establishing the VLBI Global Observing System (VGOS) through participation in the VGOS Technical Committee (VTC) and the VGOS Project Executive Group (VPEG).
- **Communications support:** Maintained the Web pages, e-mail lists, and Web-based mail archive files. Maintained the 24-hour and Intensive session Web pages including the data acquisition, correlation, analysis, and performance summaries.
- **Meetings:** Coordinated, with the Local Committees, the eighth IVS Technical Operations Workshop, held at Haystack Observatory in May 2015, and the ninth IVS General Meeting, held at Eku-

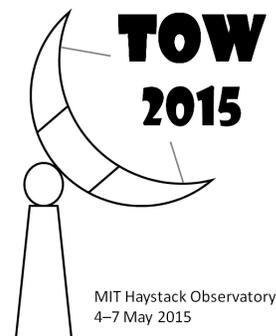


Fig. 1 Logo of the eighth IVS Technical Operations Workshop.



Fig. 2 Logo of the ninth IVS General Meeting in South Africa.

deni (Johannesburg), South Africa in March 2016. Chaired the Program Committees of both meetings.

- **IVS Retreat:** Supported the organization of the IVS Retreat held at DRAO (Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory), Penticton, BC, Canada on October 7–8, 2015. The participants (IVS Directing Board plus six invited guests) discussed the current and future challenges for the IVS based on an evaluation of the current state. The resulting Strategic Plan 2016–2025 was posted on the IVS Web site and is also contained in the Proceedings volume of the ninth IVS General Meeting.

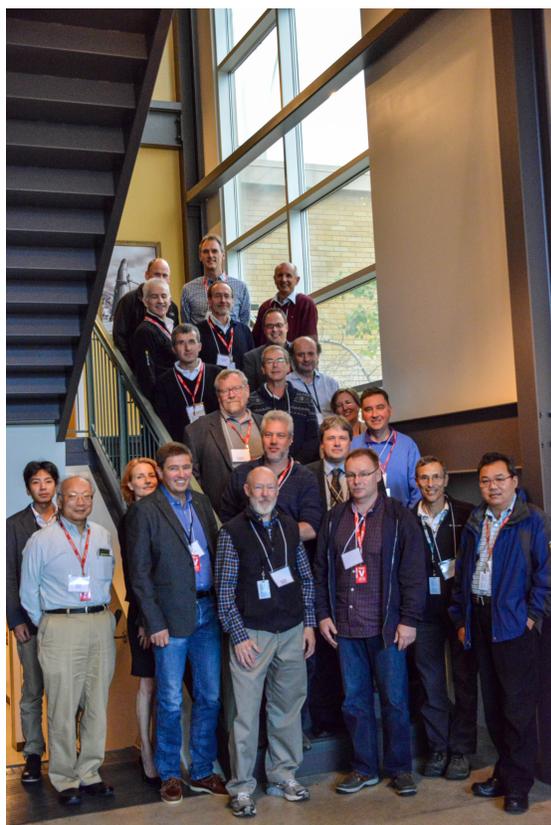


Fig. 3 Participants of the IVS Retreat in Penticton.

- **Publications:** Published the 2014 Annual Report in summer 2015. Published six editions of the IVS Newsletter in the months of April, August, and December of 2015 and 2016. Published the Proceedings volume of the ninth IVS General Meeting in December 2016. All publications are available electronically as well as in print form.
- **Observing Program Committee (OPC):** Coordinated meetings of the OPC to monitor the observing program, review problems and issues, and discuss changes.
- **Master Schedules for 2015 and 2016:** Generated and maintained the Master Observing Schedules for 2015 and 2016. Coordinated VLBI resources for observing time, correlator usage, and disk modules. Coordinated the usage of Mark 5 systems at IVS stations and efficient deployment of disk modules.
- **2017 Master Schedule:** Generated the proposed Master Schedule for 2017 and received approval from the Observing Program Committee.

3 Staff

The staff of the Coordinating Center is drawn from individuals who work at Goddard. The staff and their responsibilities are listed in Table 1.

Table 1 IVS Coordinating Center staff.

Name	Title	Responsibilities
Dirk Behrend	Director	Web site and e-mail system maintenance, Directing Board support, meetings, publications, session Web page monitoring
Cynthia Thomas	Operation Manager	Master schedules (current year), resource management and monitoring, meeting and travel support, special sessions
Frank Gomez	Web Manager	Web server administration, mail system maintenance, Data Center support, session processing scripts, mirror site liaison
Karen Baver	General Programmer and Editor	Publication processing programs, LaTeX support and editing, session Web page support and scripts, Data Center support
Kyla Armstrong	Data Technician and Editor	Publications support and Web site support

4 Plans for 2017 and 2018

The Coordinating Center plans for 2017 and 2018 include the following:

- Maintain IVS Web site and e-mail system.
- Publish the 2015+2016 Biennial Report (this volume).
- Coordinate, with the local committee, the ninth IVS Technical Operations Workshop to be held at the MIT Haystack Observatory, MA, USA in May 2017.
- Coordinate, with the local committee, the tenth IVS General Meeting to be held in Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen, Norway in June 2018.
- Publish the Proceedings volume of the tenth IVS General Meeting.
- Support Directing Board meetings in 2017 and 2018.
- Coordinate the 2017 and 2018 Master Observing Schedules and IVS resources.
- Publish Newsletter issues in April, August, and December.
- Support the VGOS activities within the VTC and the VPEG.